ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF LODDON AND CLAVERING,

For the Year 1920.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the year 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Loddon and Clavering Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Report for the year 1920.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with the Memorandum recently issued by the Ministry of Health for the guidance of Medical Officers of Health in the preparation of their Annual Reports. As however such matters as the physical features and general character of the District were fully dealt with last year and there have been no changes it seems unnecessary to deal with these again in the same detail. The paragraphs in the Report are arranged in corresponding order to the subjects in the Memorandum.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. BARR STEVENS, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

LODDON,
April, 1921.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Population.—Census 1911, 11,964. Estimated by the Registrar-General for 1920, 11,388. It will be interesting to see how this figure compares with that of the Census to be taken this year.

Vital Statistics.—The net number of Deaths registered was 141, giving a death-rate of 11·5. This shows an improvement on the year 1919 when the deaths registered were 162, and the death-rate 14·79. The Births registered were 293 (an increase of 85 on 1919) and the birth-rate was 25·75.

Hospitals.—No change.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

Rivers and Streams.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Closet Accommodation.

Scavenging.—No important changes have to be recorded in any of these matters. I have to suggest the issue to householders of leaflets advising the more complete destruction of house refuse in house fires, and the advantage where heaps of ashes and rubbish are made of having these further from the house.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.—This is dealt with in the Report by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations.—No change. No Rag Flock work is carried out in the District. There are no factories, work-shops, or work-places of the kind on which a special report has to be sent to the Home Office.

Schools.—During 1920 there was less occasion than in the previous year to close Schools on account of epidemic disease. The following Schools were closed:

Thurlton	...	*Scarlet Fever*	From Christmas, 1919, to 16th Jan.
Heckingham	...	*Measles*	5th Jan. to 16th Jan.
Gillingham	...	,,	26th Feb. to 19th March.
Bergh Apton	...	,,	23rd June to 16th July

FOOD.

Milk Supply. In this District it should easily be possible for the public to obtain an abundant supply of pure clean milk. The public are becoming aware of what they are entitled to in this matter, and their increased interest should react beneficiently on the purveyors.

Meat. The slaughter houses are dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. Two carcases were condemned during the year. The following Tabular Statement is required in the Memorandum.

	1914.	Jan., 1920.	Dec., 1920.
Slaughter houses registered	5	5	5
.. licensed			
TOTAL	5	5	5

Food Poisoning. No cases of this nature were reported.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Infectious Diseases generally. There was very much less infectious disease in the District in 1920 than in 1919. The number of notifications was 82, as compared with 129 (exclusive of 101 cases of measles then notifiable) in 1919. The usual notices of the cause of absence of scholars have again been received from the Head Teachers of the schools and have in one or two instances led to the detection of cases of infectious disease which would otherwise have escaped observation.

Influenza. There were a few cases at the beginning of the year. A leaflet in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health was prepared in February and distributed to every house in the area giving hints on the prevention of this disease and precautions to be taken on a case occurring. In this leaflet attention was drawn to the use of protective vaccine. The vaccine was issued by the Ministry to Medical Officers of Health for distribution free of charge to medical practitioners, so that any person who wished could be inoculated by his own medical attendant. I procured a supply of the vaccine but received no applications for it. A report to that effect was sent to the Ministry in August. There were no deaths from influenza registered in the District in 1920, as compared with 11 in the previous year.

Diphtheria. 20 cases were notified in 1920, as compared with 36 in 1919. As last year it has again been shown by positive reports on throat swabs that the patient may remain infections with this disease long after his own recovery. There was one very interesting case of this disease. It was that of a milker who was stung on the face by some insect, while at his work. His face swelled and one of his eyes became inflamed. On going to the Norwich Eye Infirmary he was found to be suffering from diphtheria of the eye. The source of infection other than the sting remained mysterious, as a swab taken of the patient's throat was found negative, as was also one from his wife who was said to have recently had a sore throat and there were no known cases in the parish where he lived. Two deaths from diphtheria were registered, as compared with six in 1919.

Scarlet Fever.—32 cases were notified and one death registered. We were again throughout the year never without a case. The great majority were of a very mild type.

Malaria.—Only one case was notified. This case is interesting. The patient had never been out of Norfolk, and the malarial parasites were found in her blood when it was being examined for another purdose while she was a patient in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

Small-pox.—More fortunate than in 1919; we had no cases of this disease in 1920. In several instances at the beginning of the year we had intimation from other districts of the arrival in this district of small-pox contacts. These were in each case kept under observation till the end of the observation period.

Enteric Fever.—Three cases occurred, one at Ditchingham and two at Ashby St. Mary. In the latter cases which were in the same house there seemed a clear history of the infection having originated in Norwich. The M.O.H. Norwich was communicated with but no allied cases were discovered.

Acute Encephalitis Lethargica and Acute Polio-encephalitis. These diseases are still notifiable, but no cases occurred. There were no cases of *Anthrax* or *Rabies.*

Tuberculosis.—17 cases were notified as compared with 20 in 1919, and 11 deaths were registered. The County Council have now appointed a whole-time Tuberculosis Medical Officer. This should lead to the better supervision of cases and the earlier admission to sanatoria of suitable cases.

In April the Council purchased a disinfecting cabinet suitable for disinfecting clothing, etc., in cases of infectious disease, and also that of verminous persons.

A Table has been prepared showing the number of cases of infectious disease which occurred in each Parish in the District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Under the Notification of Births Act I receive notifications of births from Medical Practitioners and Midwives. I forward a copy of the notification to the County Medical Officer of Health. As we have no Health Visitors no further steps are taken in this connection. Nevertheless the infantile death-rate in this District is fairly low being 47·44 per 1000 births. This is, in my opinion, chiefly due to the fact that most of the mothers are able and willing to suckle their infants. In connection with the County Council's scheme under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919, milk was supplied in two cases. One Child Welfare (Weighing) Centre was started at Loddon during the year, but was not a very great success, the largest attendance being eleven mothers with their infants. There were no cases of *Puerperal Fever* and no cases of *Ophthalmia Neonatorum* during the year.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) The Staff, as before, consists of myself and Mr. Pritchard, the Sanitary Inspector, both part-time officers. I am again indebted to Mr. Pritchard for his ready help during the year.

(2) We have no infections diseases hospital. Two cases of scarlet fever from this District were treated in Oulton Infectious Diseases Hospital, the matter being privately arranged.

(4) Bacteriological examinations for the Council were again carried out by Dr. Claridge, Norwich. The following examinations were made:

Material		*Result.*	
Throat Swabs (Diphtheria) ..	59	Positive ..	19
		Negative ..	40
Sputum (Tubercular Bacilli) .	7	T.B. found ..	1
		T.B. not found	6

The large number of swabs found negative includes those sent for "clearance" and those taken from contacts.

HOUSING.

I have nothing to add to my remarks in last year's Report. A number of houses are under construction, but none were completed during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the year 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Loddon and Clavering Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report of the work carried out by me during the past twelve months, being the 22nd Annual Report.

There were a number of notices left over last year in consequence of being served late in the year, the work in connection with these has proceeded satisfactorily, but owing to new houses being built the work of repair to old houses has been interrupted.

In a report of this kind it is not possible to show the actual work accomplished for some of the journeys are necessarily long, and infectious disease visits cannot for obvious reasons be made on the same journey as ordinary inspections, neither is it advisable to make inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds.

The work to Cowsheds has been satisfactory and the improvements carried out are of a permanent character.

It is rather a remarkable fact that I have not had a single application from householders for certificate of fitness of dwelling-houses under the Rents Restriction Act. This is not for want of the public knowing that application might be made, for on several occasions the privilege allowed has been mentioned to me.

Three houses in poor condition and one temporary dwelling have been closed on the same becoming unoccupied. It is not the various owners intentions to relet these at present.

The number of notices served during the year is 95, 65 being at the instruction of your Authority.

Statute or Bye-Law.		
Public Health Act	(Preliminary)	30
ditto	(Statutory)	65

The number of letters written have been considerable and have entailed a lot of time.

Only thirteen complaints have been received, a fact that goes to show the satisfactory condition of the district.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

Drainage and Privies.

Drains opened and cleansed (140 yards)	2
Yards of pipes drain laid	102
Stoneware gullies fixed	2
Sink pipes removed	1
Intercepting traps fixed	1
Insufficient privy accommodation (extra provided)	6
Privies repaired	6
New pails to old privies	20
New privy seats	3
New concrete floors	1
Privy removed from same shed as copper ...	1
New covers to privy vaults	6
Vaults repaired	3
New door to privy	1
Privies to pail system	2
Foul ditches cleansed	1

Dwelling-Houses, etc.

Filthy houses cleansed	6
House doors repaired	10
House and shed roofs repaired	54
Houses re-roofed	2
Stoves and ovens repaired or new provided ...	18
Coppers provided	2
Dangerous stairs repaired	7
House floors relaid or repaired	29
,, ceilings repaired or renewed	17
,, walls lath and plastered and made dry ...	13
,, walls repaired	48
,, windows enlarged and made to open ...	98
Houses closed	3
Shed used as dwelling closed	1
House eaves and down spouting provided ...	22
Chimney flues cleared	2
Dangerous chimneys rebuilt	21
Bedrooms extra ventilation provided	6
Overcrowding abated	4
School inspected	1

Water Supply.

Pumps repaired	4
Wells deepened and cleansed	2
New covers to wells	12
Samples of water for analysis	2

Keeping of Animals and Manure.

Animals improperly kept removed	2
Accumulations of manure removed	3

Cowsheds, etc.

Cowsheds cleaned on notice	39
,, paved and new floors laid	8
,, insufficient drainage remedied ...	6
,, drains removed from inside	3
,, insufficient ventilation remedied ...	4
,, more light provided	16
Animals improperly kept removed	1
Accumulations of manure removed	2
Dairies cleaned on notice	1
,, improperly used remedied	1

Legal Proceedings.

It has been found necessary to taken proceedings in two cases only, fines being imposed amounting to £7 3s. 0d. and costs 15s. 6d.

Visits and Inspections.

Nuisances	1145
Houses inspected	98
Complaints investigated	13
Infectious disease visits	68
Houses fumigated	37

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

At the end of the year 1920 the register kept under Section 2 of the above Order, 1885, contained the names of 65 Cowkeepers and one Milkshop.

	Cowkeepers.	*Milkshops.*
On register at end of 1919	42	1
Newly registered	24	-
Removed from register	2	-
Remaining on register	64	1

being an increase of 20 registered cowkeepers. The improvements carried out are shown in the previous summary.

Housing and Town Planning Act.

The houses inspected under this heading are included in the above list. Three of those recommended for closing last year have been voluntarily closed, the remaining two are still occupied by a single person.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

The visits made under this heading have been few, no complaints have been received from the Factory and Workshops Inspector.

Infectious Disease.

Full details of notified cases will be found in the report made by the Medical Officer of Health. It is satisfactory to state that there has not been a repetition of any case of Small Pox which occurred in 1919. All cases of infectious disease are visited by myself and on recovery fumigated.

Food and Drugs.

The carcase of a pig and of a bullock were submitted for inspection and found to be unfit for human food, these were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

I again beg to tender you my thanks for your kind support and consideration to me during the 22½ years I have been in your service and assure you of my best endeavours to satisfactorily carry out such duties in the future.

I also beg to thank Dr. Stevens, Medical Officer of Health, for his kind assistance and co-operation at all times, he like myself is most anxious to improve the Sanitary condition of the district.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

CHARLES W. PRITCHARD,

(Cert. Royal San. Inst.),

Sanitary Inspector.

Table i.—Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1920.

LODDON AND CLAVERING RURAL DISTRICT.

—	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Civilian Population									Rate per 1,000 Births.	
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.
England and Wales - - -	25·4	12·4	0·01	0·00	0·19	0·04	0·11	0·15	0·28	0·48	8·3	80
Loddon & Clavering Rural District	25·72	12·38	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·08	0·00	0·17	0·00	0·35	0·00	47.44

Causes of Death during the Year 1920.

LODDON AND CLAVERING RURAL DISTRICT.

	Causes of Death.	Males.	Females
	ALL CAUSES (Civilians only) ..	62	79
1	Enteric fever	..	..
2	Small-pox	..	..
3	Measles	..	..
4	Scarlet fever	..	1
5	Whooping cough	..	..
6	Diphtheria and croup	1	1
7	Influenza	..	..
8	Erysipelas	..	..
9	Pulmonary tuberculosis	2	5
10	Tuberculous meningitis	..	..
11	Other tuberculous diseases ..	3	1
12	Cancer, malignant diseases ..	3	19
13	Rheumatic fever	..	1
14	Meningitis	..	1
15	Organic heart disease	12	6
16	Bronchitis	4	5
17	Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..
18	Other respiratory diseases	1	1
19	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ..	..	..
20	Appendicitis and typhlitis	1	..
21	Cirrhosis of liver	1	..

	Causes of Death.	Males	Females
21A	Alcoholism	..	..
22	Nephritis and Bright's disease ..	..	1
23	Puerperal fever	..	..
24	Parturition, apart from puerperal fever	..	3
25	Congenital debility, &c.	7	4
26	Violence, apart from suicide ..	3	1
27	Suicide	..	..
28	Other defined diseases	23	29
29	Causes ill-defined or unknown ..	1	..
	Special Causes (included above) ..	..	..
	Cerebro-spinal fever	..	..
	Poliomyelitis	..	..
	Deaths of infants under 1 year of age, Total	9	4
	Illegitimate	.	1
	TOTAL BIRTHS	136	157
	Legitimate	129	149
	Illegitimate	7	8
	POPULATION (FOR BIRTHS AND DEATHS)	11388	

Table III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1920

LODDON AND CLAVERING RURAL DISTRICT.

Parish.	Small-pox	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Opthalmia Neonatorum.	Tuberculosis—Pulmonary.	Tuberculosis—Other forms.	Measles and German Measles	Malaria.	Total in each Parish
Aldeby	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Alpington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Ashby St. Mary ..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
Bedingham	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bergh Apton	..	1	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Brooke	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Broome	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Burgh St. Peter ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Carleton St. Peter ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Chedgrave	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
Claxton	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Ditchingham	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	7	..	..	..	12
Ellingham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Geldeston	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Gillingham	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Haddiscoe	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Hales . ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Hardley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Heckingham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Hedenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Hellington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Howe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Kirby Cane	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Kirstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Langley	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Loddon	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	7
Mundham	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
Norton Subcourse ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Ravenningham	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Seething	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Sisland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Stockton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Thurlton	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5
Thurton	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	8
Thwaite	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Toft Monks	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Topcroft	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wheatacre All Saints ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Woodton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Yelverton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Total Infectious Diseases Notified ..	0	32	20	3	0	0	6	9	0	14	3	0	1	82